

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

2200935204

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Verdant Mead, Simon's Rackt				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: (MD 60) Leitersburg Pike just east of Northern Avenue, Route 7				
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown				
STATE Maryland		COUNTY: Washington		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Anna E. Shank				
STREET AND NUMBER: Route 7				
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown		STATE: Maryland		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF OEEOS, ETC: Washington County Court House				
STREET AND NUMBER: West Washington Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown		STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 154/673				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION			
CONDITION	(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair
	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE			
<p>This house is located along the east side of Maryland Route 60, the Leitersburg Pike, in Washington County, Maryland. It is situated on a rise of ground with the main entrance facing south.</p> <p>The bi-level two-story stone dwelling consists of two sections attached on an axis. The west portion contains three bays while the east section with its lower elevation is four bays in length. The house is trimmed in green and white. An inside end chimney of brick is located at the west gable end and a centrally placed brick flue rises from the east portion. The roof which extends several inches beyond the ends of the house is covered with slate.</p> <p>The walls of the dwelling are constructed of roughly coursed local limestone. There is little decorative stone work associated with the exterior of the building. Rough flat arches are present, however, over the windows.</p> <p>Exterior window and door framing is consistent, showing pegged joinings. The windows are finished with quirked quarter round terminating in a bead along the side edge (see illustration). They contain two-over-two pane Victorian period sashes. Most windows are flanked by paneled or louvered shutters.</p> <p>The doors show similar framing and finishing to the windows. The original main entrance is located in the third bay from the west end of the house. It opens into a spacious hall. The entrance way is quite plain and is topped with a transom.</p> <p>The house has several porches, one of which appears to be original. It is included under the roof span of the east section of the house, and is supported by square wooden posts which carry Victorian brackets at the lower tier. A plain wooden balustrade encloses the second level of the porch. A door from the second story porch enters into the east gable end of the west section.</p> <p>A shed roof entrance porch extends across the facade of the west section. It is supported by chamfered wooden posts. Covering the five west bays of the rear of the house is a one-story hipped roof porch. It is supported by round concrete columns set on high square bases.</p> <p>The interior of the house is divided by a stone wall separating the two sections. The west portion reflects some formality of design. Its wide entrance hall houses the main stair which has very plain square balusters and newels. The ends of the risers are finished with simple decorative scrolls. Chimney pieces in the two rooms west of the hall are finished with fluted pilasters.</p> <p>The east section of the house is much more functional in design. It consists of two rooms separated by a wall containing the flue for the large fireplace located in the easternmost room.</p> <p>Most interior doors have six panels which are raised and trimmed with quirked quarter round molding (see illustration). They are secured with butt hinges. An unpainted door between the two sections at the attic level provides excellent evidence of workmanship on a raised panel piece with plain quarter round molding. It is mounted on large wrought iron tulip shaped hinges, although there is evidence of earlier long strap hinges which have been removed.</p>			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

(Continued on attached sheet.)

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☒ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) probably late 18th century

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of this property lies in its architecture. Although the house has received some Victorian and 20th century alterations, its original fabric is essentially intact. The historical value of the house is enhanced by several outbuildings, including a large stone end barn, which appear to be contemporary with the house.

The two sections of the house represent distinct contrasting building types found in Washington County and Western Maryland. The east portion of the structure is clearly vernacular in nature. Its lack of symmetry and consciously planned architectural design or style suggest that it was built to answer functional concerns. It probably reflects early building traditions, possibly having ethnic origins in Germany. Deed records indicate that people of German descent owned the property until 1814.

The west section of the house displays essentially formal design. Its wide entrance hall and high ceilinged rooms suggest the Georgian form. The term "Georgian" is often loosely applied to the standard Pennsylvania and Western Maryland farmhouses which contain five bays and center stair halls. The three-bay abbreviation of this plan, such as this example, is sometimes designated as "half Georgian."

This house, then, displays both formal and informal building techniques and thus represents much of Washington County's early domestic architecture.

Although there is no substantiated date indicating the year that the house was built, there is evidence in the structure that suggests the possibility of late 18th century construction.

The information provided by the land records suggests that the tract, "Verdant Mead" was carved from an earlier patent called "Simon's Racket." Scharf's History of Western Maryland lists a tract, "The Resurvey on Part of Simon's Racket," granted to Isaac Simmons on October 1, 1748.¹ It contained 545 acres. No information has been found concerning the original survey for "Simon's Racket." Isaac Simons died sometime before November 18, 1755 and seems to have been an early resident of Washington County and a contemporary of Thomas Cresap who owned a large amount of land nearby.

Since the deed records indicate that Isaac Simon's land was divided among his daughters' families after his death, it is possible that the

¹Thomas J. Scharf, History of Western Maryland, Regional Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1967, p. 985.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	°	'	"		°	'	"	
NE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SW	°	'	"		°	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 183.5 acres

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant	
ORGANIZATION Washington County Historic Sites Survey	DATE December, 1973
STREET AND NUMBER: Court House Annex	
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown	STATE Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____

#7 Description (Continued)

The attic of both sections displays rafters which have been half dove-tailed and joined with pegs. The collar beams also reveal pegged joining. Nails extracted from the attic floor of both sections were wrought with flattened ends. Study of the attic revealed that the wall dividing the two sections is part of the west portion of the house, indicating that the west end may have been built first or, that both sections were built at the same time with the stone partition between them, possibly for structural strength. Since similar construction materials and techniques were used in both sections, an addition could have been erected only a short time after the original construction. The absence of a seam in the masonry on the exterior could suggest that the entire structure was built at one time or that the jointure was erased by cosmetic stone work.

In addition to the house is a board and battern outbuilding and a large stone end bank barn with Victorian trim. All are in good condition.

The property contains 183.5 acres and is used for agriculture. The house is located in an area of incipient commercial development and could be threatened with destruction in the near future.

#8 Significance (Continued)

house may have been built by Ludwick Young who was married to Magdelane Simons and who owned the property until 1814. The \$10,000 price that Young received for the property would suggest that some improvements were present.

Tax records show that in 1783, Ludwick Young was assessed for 455 acres called "Magdelane's Fancy," a name which did not appear in the deed records. Improvements in this assessment were valued at 150 pounds, while the land was valued at 927 pounds. In the 1803 list of taxables, Ludwick Young was assessed for 300 acres, part of "Simon's Rack." Although no improvements were listed, Young's personal property was substantial, valued at slightly over 273 pounds.

The Shank property with its broad architectural and historical background is worthy of consideration for historical preservation.

WA-I-100 -- Deed Records

Liber 154, Folio 673, April 1, 1919

Grantor: Charles B. Nigh, executor for David F. Nigh,

Grantee: Benjamin H. Shank

183-1/2 acres, \$41,195.75, the land is described as being part of a tract called "Verdant Mead."

Liber 129, Folio 309, April 1, 1909

Grantors: Willoughby M. Strock and Louisa A. Strock

Grantee: David F. Nigh

183-1/2 acres, \$36,700.00

Liber 122, Folio 629, December 7, 1905

Grantor: William Strock

Grantees: Willoughby M. Strock and Louisa A. Strock

183-1/2 acres, \$14,000.00

Liber 109, Folio 373, November 22, 1898

Grantors: George T. Gambrill and Margaret I. Gambrill

Grantee: William Strock

183-1/2 acres, \$25,000.00

Liber 84, Folio 531, August 31, 1883

Grantor: Elizabeth E. Smith

Grantee: George F. Gambrill, Baltimore, Md.

183-1/2 acres, \$16,000.00

Liber 22, Folio 119, April 2, 1842

Grantor: Adam Wever

Grantee: William Smith

268 acres, \$14,740.00, as in the preceding deeds, the property is described as being part of a tract called "Verdant Mead."

Liber RR, Folio 851, April 23, 1836

Grantors: William Shellman and Susan Shellman

Grantee: Adam Wever, Frederick County

268-1/8 acres, \$14,746.75

Liber PP, Folio 763, April 8, 1835

Grantor: Alexander Neill, Trustee

Grantee: William Shelman

Approximately 305 acres. Alexander Neill is described as trustee for the heirs of Benjamin Barr, deceased. The property was sold at public sale to John Winders on June 18, 1825 for \$12,200. Winders died intestate in February, 1828 without having paid the full purchase price to Benjamin Barr's heirs.

Liber Z, Folio 373, April 6, 1814

Grantor: Ludwick Young

Grantee: Benjamin Barr and Christian Barr

305-5/8 acres, \$10,000. Although the property is still referred to as "Verdant Mead," parts of the tracts "Simon's Racket," "Betely's Delight," "Dawson's Strife," and "Ludwick's Rock" are also mentioned.

The following deeds are among the land records of Frederick County:

Liber W, Folio 237, October 7, 1774

Grantors: Henry Funk and Susannah Funk
Adam Troup and Catherine Troup
Ludwick Young and Magdalein Young
Samuel Bachley (also spelled Bachtel) and Anna Maria Bachley

Grantees: Ludwick Young and Magdalein Young

1 30-1/2 acres. The deed states that Susannah Funk, Catherine Troup, Magdalein Young and Anna Maria Bachley were daughters of Isaac Simons who died intestate. The land is part of "Simon's Rackt."

Liber E, Folio 887, November 18, 1755

Grantor: Magdalena Simon, executor for Isaac Simon

Grantee: Ludwigh Young

117 acres, 20 pounds. The land is part of "Simon's Rackt."

In another deed, also dated November 18, 1755, (Liber E, Folio 884), Magdalena Simon conveyed to Samuel Bachtel a portion of "Simon's Racket" for 25 pounds, containing 140 acres.

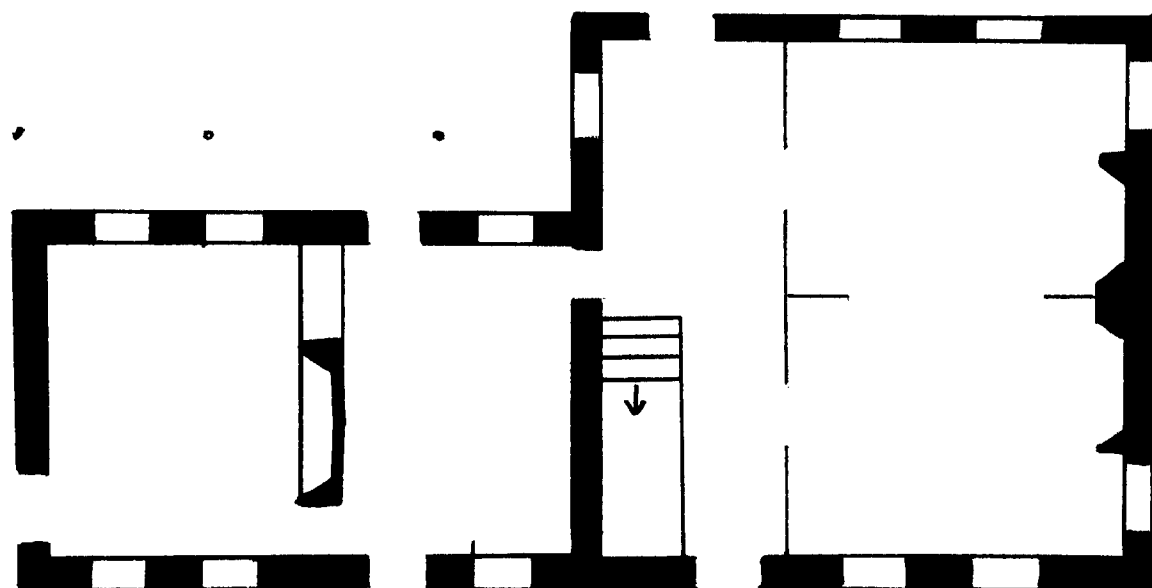
On June 20, 1775, (Liber B. D., Folio 641), Samuel Bachley (also spelled Bachtel) sold nine acres of "Bachtel's Delight" to Ludwick Young for nine pounds.



PROFILE, INTERIOR DOOR
MOLDING



PROFILE, EXTERIOR DOOR
AND WINDOW MOLDING.



WA-I-100

APPROXIMATE FLOOR PLAN

N.
↓

DRAWINGS NOT IN SCALE







